



Homestake Mining Company of California

David W. Pierce
Closure Manager

03-Jan-2020

Ashlynn Winton
Mining Environmental Compliance Section
Ground Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502

RE: Homestake Mining Company, Grants Reclamation Project, License Source Materials License SUA-1471, Docket Number 40-8903; NMED Discharge Permit DP-200: NMED 15-Day Corrective Action Report for the Unauthorized Discharge from Injection Line

Dear Ms. Winton:

This letter will serve as the 15-day report as required by 20.6.2.1203.A (6) NMAC in the Homestake Mining Company (HMC) New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Discharge Permit (DP-200). The letter report provides additional details regarding the unauthorized release of impacted water from the HMC injection line as previously notified by letter on 12/27/2019 to the NMED and NRC.

During the night of December 20/21, the HMC-Grants site experienced temperatures below 10° Fahrenheit. HMC received a report of a spill adjacent to HMC's "Q" and "R" fields near Thunderbird Road prior to making our daily rounds in the area on December 21st (Attachment 1). Upon investigation, a broken flowmeter associated with an injection line was discovered as the source of the injection water discharging onto the ground. Photographs of the spill area are shown in Attachment 2. Based on an estimated spill area of 20,250 square feet and a conservative, assumed depth of approximately four inches, an estimate of approximately 50,000 gallons of compliant injection water (treated to meet groundwater protection standards under Condition 35(B) of Radioactive Materials License SUA-1471 with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission) was released from the injection line.

The entire wellfield, including injection and collection systems, was shutdown pending repair of the Injection line. The flowmeter was replaced December 21st and the collection and injection systems were put back into service.

Although the release meets the reporting criteria under NMAC 20.6.2.1203.A, the release does not meet the radiological reporting criteria specified in NRC 10 CFR 20.2202 or 10 CFR 40.60 based on low radionuclide concentrations and discharge quantity.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please contact me via e-mail at dpierce@homestakeminingcoca.com or at the Grants office at 505.238.9701.

Respectfully,

David W. Pierce
Closure Manager
Homestake Mining Company of California
Office: 505.287.4456 x34 | Cell: 505.238.9701

RE: 15-Day Corrective Action Report of Unauthorized Discharge from Injection Line

Copy To:

R. Linton, NRC, Rockville, Maryland (electronic copy)
Mark Purcell, EPA, Dallas, Texas (electronic copy)
M. McCarthy, Barrick, Salt Lake City, Utah (electronic copy)
C. Burton, Barrick, Henderson, Nevada (electronic copy)
R. Whicker, ERG, Albuquerque, New Mexico (electronic copy)

attachments

Attachment 1



Aerial photograph showing release location in "Q" field located between Thunderbird Road and Highway 605

Attachment 2



Photograph showing flowmeter that froze due to low temperatures



Photograph showing released water which flowed west of Thunderbird Road